

Requirements, without need to further consider the merits of the Restriction. Accordingly, the present election is made without prejudice or acquiescence to any position taken by the Office concerning the possible nature and/or existence of distinct inventions among the originally presented and elected claims. Applicants traverse the Restriction and Species Election Requirements on these limited grounds and reserve the right to file a divisional or related application to the claims of non-elected groups.

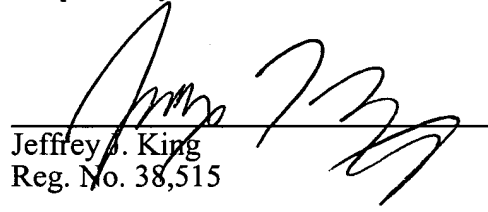
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 12, 2001


Jeffrey A. King
Reg. No. 38,515

Customer Number 20350

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (206) 467-9600
Fax: (415) 576-0300
JJK:imp